

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (acronym RCIA) The Rite of
Acceptance Into The Order of Catechumens On Dec.11

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God, the Father of all

The RCIA rite is designed for adults such as our candidates Karen Cacciapouti and Kimberly Borgeson who, after a period of inquiry (questioning) and hearing the mystery of Christ proclaimed (meeting each Sunday from before Easter at 9:00 in the Parish Center with the RCIA team for Opening the Word), are freely seeking the living God and are entering the way of faith and conversion through the intercession of the Holy Spirit. As RCIA Coordinator I feel Kimberly and Karen have had a truly wonderful beginning in their lifetime journey of finding and following Christ, thanks to Father Tom Lopes, their Sponsors and their RCIA committee members. I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to all involved. Hopefully through God's help requested by the prayers of the church family of Immaculate Conception Church they will be strengthened spiritually during this time of preparation and at the Holy Saturday Vigil will receive the sacraments of Penance, Holy Communion and Confirmation fruitfully. These journeys not only include periods of making inquiry but also steps marking the catechumen's progress.

The first step: the candidates reaching the point of initial conversion and wishing to become Christians are accepted as catechumens by the Church. This ceremony is called the Rite of Acceptance. In this rite the candidates publicly declare their intention to become members of the Catholic Church. This rite will be celebrated next weekend on the Third Sunday of Advent December 11th at the 10:00 Mass. There will be a reception for the candidates after the Mass. All are welcome. Please remember to welcome Karen and Kimberly into our church community and to pray for them during their journey.

The second step: having progressed in faith and nearly completed the catechumenate, they are accepted into a more intense preparation for the sacraments of initiation called the Election and Enrollment of names which occurs on the first Sunday of Lent at St. Mary's Cathedral in Fall River. On that Sunday our Church will be celebrating a Rite of Sending.

The third step: having completed their spiritual preparation, they will receive the sacraments of Christian initiation on Holy Saturday Evening.

Thank you for your undivided attention.

With trust and hope in the Lord,

Kathleen Bendixen, RCIA Coordinator

RCIA Committee

Elizabeth Symynkywicz (Inquiry Coordinator)

Ann Marie Burke

Sandra Tierney

Helen Harlowe (Sponsor)

Edward Pare

Christopher Vaughan (Publicity)

PLEASE CONSIDER GIVING OF YOUR TIME AND TALENTS TO RCIA.

**IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC
PLEASE CONTACT K. BENDIXEN @ 508-230-2230.**